WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:
a) performing maintenance on an aircraft; and
b) generating a computer-searchable database record which contains

    i) a description of the maintenance;

    ii) the date of the maintenance.

2. Method according to claim 1, where:
    i) the description is contained on a bitmap copy of a government-issue form bearing a government designation.

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the description is contained in a non-text-searchable field and the date is contained in a searchable field.

4. A method, comprising:
a) performing maintenance on an aircraft;
b) generating a database record which contains
    i) a description of the maintenance, in a format which is non-text-searchable, and
    ii) date of the maintenance, in a text-searchable format; and
c) modifying a configuration log of the aircraft in accordance with the maintenance, said log being text-searchable.

5. Method according to claim 4, and further comprising:
    d) repeating the procedures of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), to thereby produce
    i) multiple database records, and

ii) multiple versions of the
configuration log, each corresponding
to a respective time period.

6. Method according to claim 5, and further
comprising:

e) searching the multiple versions of the log
for text representing a specific component; and
f) when text is found in a version,
identifying the version's time period, and
searching for records which match that time
period, to thereby locate a description of the
maintenance in the records.

7. A system, comprising:
a) a plurality of configuration logs, each
   i) corresponding to a single
   aircraft;
   ii) comprising multiple versions,
   each version describing the
   configuration of the aircraft during
   a respective time period;
b) a plurality of database records, each
corresponding to a respective maintenance
event, and each containing
   i) a bitmap of a document which
   describes the maintenance event;
   ii) a searchable field containing
   the registration number of the
   aircraft maintained; and
   iii) a searchable field containing
   the date of the maintenance event.

8. System according to claim 7, wherein each
database record further contains a searchable field
containing a number identifying the type of document

contained in the bitmap.

9.   System according to claim 7, wherein each database record contains no additional searchable fields.

10.   A method, comprising:
a)   performing an operation upon a component of an aircraft;
b)   placing a description of the operation on a form which bears a form number;
c)   generating a digital version of the description;
d)   generating a database record which contains two, or more, of the following items:
    i)   the digital version,
    ii)   serial number of the component,
    iii)   date of the operation, and
    iv)   the form number.

11.   Method according to claim 10, wherein the digital version is
    i)   displayable on a computer screen, and
    ii)   transmittable over a computer network.

12.   Method according to claim 10, and further comprising maintaining a configuration log of the aircraft, which contains a description of substantially all components of the aircraft.

13.   Method according to claim 10, and further comprising generating successive versions of the configuration log, as maintenance events occur on the aircraft.